

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 18, 25, 29, and 30, and add new claims 31-36, as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-17. Canceled.

18. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material having a substantially non-adjustable circumference arranged to prevent ~~resisting~~ loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe,

wherein the reinforcing element has a width not substantially greater than a single corrugation.

19. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end.
20. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 18, wherein each section includes opposed male and female ends and the outside pipe diameter of each section between its respective male and female ends is substantially the same.
21. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 20, wherein the outside diameter of the female end of each section is substantially the same as the outside pipe diameter.
22. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 19, wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests.
23. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein the outside diameter of the male end is selected to permit mating and sealing engagement with the female end.

24. (Previously Presented) The corrugated pipe of claim 22, wherein each section includes an annular intermediate corrugation adjacent the male end defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, the intermediate corrugation being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated.
25. (Currently Amended) In a corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:
- an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and
 - ~~an~~ a non-adjustable annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element, the reinforcing material structurally configured to prevent ~~resisting~~ loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe;
 - wherein the annular sealing element is disposed in an annular channel in the outer surface of the male end;
 - wherein the male end includes at least two corrugations comprising at least two axially-spaced, annular crests and an annular valley therebetween, the two crests defining the outside diameter of the male end, and wherein the annular channel is formed in one of the crests;

wherein each section includes an annular intermediate corrugation adjacent the male end defining an outside diameter greater than the outside diameter of the male end, the intermediate corrugation being disposed to engage the distal end of the female end when fully mated; and

wherein the outside diameter of the intermediate corrugation is less than the outside pipe diameter.

26. Canceled.
27. (Previously Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the male end also includes a second corrugation that can be accommodated in the female end.
28. (Previously Amended) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the female end includes a distal end into which the male end is inserted, and a third corrugation with a crest that extends radially outwardly at least as far as the distal end of the female end.
29. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe for accommodating fluid flow, the pipe consisting of a material that deforms in response to internal water pressure and including two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, the improvement comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and
~~an~~ single piece of annular reinforcement material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end, the annular reinforcement material having a width that is greater than the width of the sealing element but is not substantially greater than a single corrugation, the annular reinforcement material being disposed substantially upstream from the sealing element and configured to maintain a substantially fixed circumference of the female end to resist loss of sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element during use of the pipe.

30. (Currently Amended) A corrugated pipe comprising two sections joined by telescopically mating a male end of one section with a female end of the other section, comprising:

an annular sealing element fixed to the exterior surface of the male end and disposed to sealingly engage the interior surface of the female end; and

an annular band of reinforcing material disposed around the exterior surface of the female end at a position along the longitudinal axis thereof that is in general alignment with the sealing element,

wherein the annular band ~~comprising one of tape, an adhesive a layer, and a suitable coating such that~~ of reinforcing material has a substantially fixed circumference to preclude the corrugated pipe, which normally ~~exhibits viscoelastic characteristics~~ expands outwardly when subjected to a

predetermined level of interior pressure, ~~is precluded from expanding outwardly at the site of the sealing element, to resist loss of~~ and losing sealing engagement between the female end and the sealing element ~~during use of the pipe~~ when the pipe is subjected to the predetermined level of interior pressure.

31. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 30, wherein the annular band of reinforcing material comprises any one of a single piece tape, a substantially nonexpandable adhesive layer, and a coating structurally configured to maintain sealing engagement between the female end of the corrugated pipe and the sealing element when the pipe is subjected to the predetermined level of interior pressure.
32. (New) A corrugated pipe comprising:
- a male end having a corrugation;
 - a female end disposed around the male end and capable of expanding to allow fluid flow outside of the male end when the male and female ends are subjected to a predetermined level of internal pressure;
 - a gasket disposed around the corrugation of the male end; and
 - a continuous ring disposed around the female end and having a substantially fixed circumference to maintain a seal between an outer surface of the gasket and an inner surface of the female end when the male and female ends are subjected to the predetermined level of internal pressure.

33. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein gasket is disposed in an annular channel formed in the corrugation of the male end.
34. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the continuous ring is radially aligned with the gasket.
35. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 34, wherein the female end includes at least one guide for maintaining the ring in radial alignment with the gasket.
36. (New) The corrugated pipe of claim 32, wherein the ring comprises any one of a single piece of material, a non-adjustable piece of material, and a substantially non-expandable piece of material.